

Message Text

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SUBJECT:EXCHANGES:CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS):
PERFORMING ARTS - CORE OPERA GROUPS

REF: A) MOSCOW 12708, B) STATE 134356

1. BASIS PARAS ONE AND TWO REFTEL IT WOULD APPEAR BUTROVA HAS CHANGED HER VIEWS RE OPERA CORE GROUPS. IN NOVEMBER 28, 1975 MEETING WITH DEPT OFFICERS AND JUST PRIOR HER RETURN TO SOVIET UNION AFTER MONTH'S STAY IN U.S., BUTROVA INFORMED US SUCH PROJECT NOT FEASIBLE. ALTERNATIVELY SUGGESTED SMALL AMERICAN OPERA COMPANY (22 SINGERS) FOR SOVIET TOUR OF THREE-FOUR CITIES.

2. DEPT HAS LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN PROPOSAL FOR SMALL AMERICAN OPERA COMPANY OR CORE GROUP PROJECT AS ONE OF TEN PAG'S TO BE EXCHANGED DURING 1977-79 AND HAS BEEN TALKING TO GLYNN ROSS ABOUT SINCE AUGUST, 1975. BECAUSE OF COMPLEXITIES IN THIS CATEGORY, WE PLAN EXPLORE FULLY WITH DEPT'S PANEL OF EXPERTS SOMETIME IN FALL OF THIS YEAR.

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3. WHILE WE CONSIDER EXCHANGE OF OPERA CORE GROUPS AN

EXCITING PROPOSAL, IT ALSO AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A LONG SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE U.S.

DIRECTOR AND USSR PRINCIPLES, PROBABLY IN THE USSR. BUTROVA LISTENED TO TAPES OF OPERAS AND WE BELIEVE RECEIVED SCORES.

4. RE PAG'S FOR 77. AS INDICATED REFTEL B, EFFORTS WERE MADE ARRANGE HAVE SOVIETS REVIEW SMALL AMERICAN MODERN DANCE GROUPS. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING YELISEYEV AND A SOV DANCE SPECIALIST AS WELL AS OTHER SOVS ATTEND A PERFORMANCE OF THE NIKOLAIS DANCE COMPANY. IN SPITE OF MAXIMUM EFFORT ON OUR PART THEY HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO TRAVEL TO PERFORMANCES OF THE PAUL TAYLOR AND MURRAY LOUIS DANCE COMPANIES.

5. AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN CASE, HOWEVER, SOVS ARE RELUCTANT TO PAY TO TRAVEL IN THE U.S. PARTICULARLY WHEN AGREEMENT NOT REACHED PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL IN U.S. TO REVIEW THESE GROUPS. SINCE U.S. GROUPS ARE NOT USUALLY PERFORMING IN THE SAME CITY AS THE RUSSIAN FESTIVAL, THIS HAS LIMITED OUR SCOPE. TIMING OF VISITS ALSO NOT PROPITIOUS FOR REVIEW OF GROUPS IN OTHER CATEGORIES. SOV COMPOSER LESHANOV WITH NATASHA IVANOVA AND OTHER SOVS REVIEWED NEIL DIAMOND AND JANIS IAN AND SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED RECORDS. THE NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND IS ALSO ON THE SCHEDULE.

6. NO ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH ANY OF THE US COMPANIES FOR A USSR TOUR ALTHOUGH ALL ARE INTERESTED IN PRINCIPLE. THE ADVANCE REVIEW IS AN EFFORT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR GOSK TO MAKE A FAST DECISION ONCE A PROPOSAL IS MADE. THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WE PLAN TO OFFER ONE DANCE AND ONE MUSIC (I.E. ROCK GROUP) FOR 1977 AND PERHAPS SOME OF THE OTHERS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

7. ON THEIR OWN GOSK REPS HAVE HEARD ANDY WILLIAMS AS WELL AS DIANA ROSS. NEITHER THE U.S. STARS, GOSK, OR THE DEPT HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN AN ARRANGEMENT. GOSK HAS, HOWEVER, SIGNED HOLIDAY ON ICE FOR TWO MONTHS BE-
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GINNING MAY 20, 1977. THEY ALSO SAW THE NEW ROY CLARK SHOW AND HAVE TALKED TO HIS MANAGEMENT ABOUT A REPEAT TOUR. THE LATTER TWO GROUPS WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE OUTSIDE WHATEVER QUOTE IS SET IN THE NEW AGREEMENT BUT GENERALLY UNDER THE AGREEMENT.

8. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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